BJP misled people on 'Ram Setu', must apologise: Baghel

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The speaker of the parliament in Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel, said that the BJP (a political party in India) should apologize to the nation for misleading the country by saying that there is no solid evidence that the bridge described in the Indian epic Ramayan, Ram Setu, exists. Baghel also said that the manmohan singh government at the center had announced a major shipping canal project named Sethusamudram, which involved taking out sand from some areas of Ram Setu in order to make it easier for ships to land. Baghel also said that the project aimed to make Ram Setu the largest shipping harbor of the country.

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Raipur: Days after Union minister Jitendra Singh gave a statement on 'Ram Setu' in Parliament, Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday said that BJP should apologise to nation for "misleading" the country. Replying to question by BJP MP Kartikeya Sharma, the Science and Technology minister had said in Rajya Sabha that there is no solid evidence that Ram Setu — a bridge between India and Sri Lanka described in the Indian epic Ramayan — exists as satellite images cannot provide direct information about Ram Setu's origin and age.

Speaking to mediapersons on Saturday, Baghel said, "When the same thing was said during the Congress government, it was termed as anti-Ram and now the BJP has accepted the same in the Parliament saying there is no solid proof of the existence of Ram Setu. The BJP should apologize to the people of the country for misleading them."

The chief minister further said, "If the people of BJP were real Ram Bhakt, they would have asked questions, protested and criticised their government. The basic character of BJP people is Ram Naam Japna, Paraya Maal Apna (Capture the others property in the name of Ram)."

Citing the union ministers statement in the Parliament, chief minister Bhupesh Baghel said the Manmohan Singh government at centre had announced a major shipping canal project named Sethusamudram. "In this, there was also talk of deepening by taking out sand from some areas of Ramsetu, so that the ship could easily land in the water. The project also aimed at making Rameswaram the largest shipping harbour of the country," Baghel said.

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